



## *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ASMFC Black Sea Bass Amendment 13 PID to be Available May 8** *States to Hold Public Meetings in Late May/Early June*

Arlington, Virginia – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board has developed a list of options to be included in the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 13 to the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The PID will focus on the long-term management of the commercial black sea bass fishery.

Currently, black sea bass is jointly managed by the Commission, through its Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and the Council, through Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP. These plans manage the commercial black sea bass fishery through a quota that is divided among four periods – Quarter I (January – March), Quarter II (April – June), Quarter III (July – September), and Quarter IV (October - December). Commercial black sea bass landings are monitored weekly to ensure the timely closure of the fisheries once the quota for each period is landed.

Both plans set out a series of trip limits that were designed to extend the quota throughout the quota period, thereby, maximizing the benefits of the available quota. However, this management approach has resulted in extended quota closures within each quarter and continued concern regarding inequitable distribution of the available quota. The PID presents a number of options to address these concerns, including (1) allocation into two sub-regions (Maine through New York, and New Jersey through North Carolina); (2) a state-by-state quota system; and (3) quota allocations by separate permit categories. The Board has identified the state-by-state quota system as the preferred management approach.

Once the Commission receives public comment on the PID, the Council and the Commission will be developing a joint Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 13. Approval of this document will most likely occur in late June/early July at either the Council's or Commission's respective meeting weeks. Following this approval, a series of public hearings will be held, with final Amendment approval slated for late fall. The Commission's PID will be available by May 8 and can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's web site at <http://www.asmfc.org>. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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